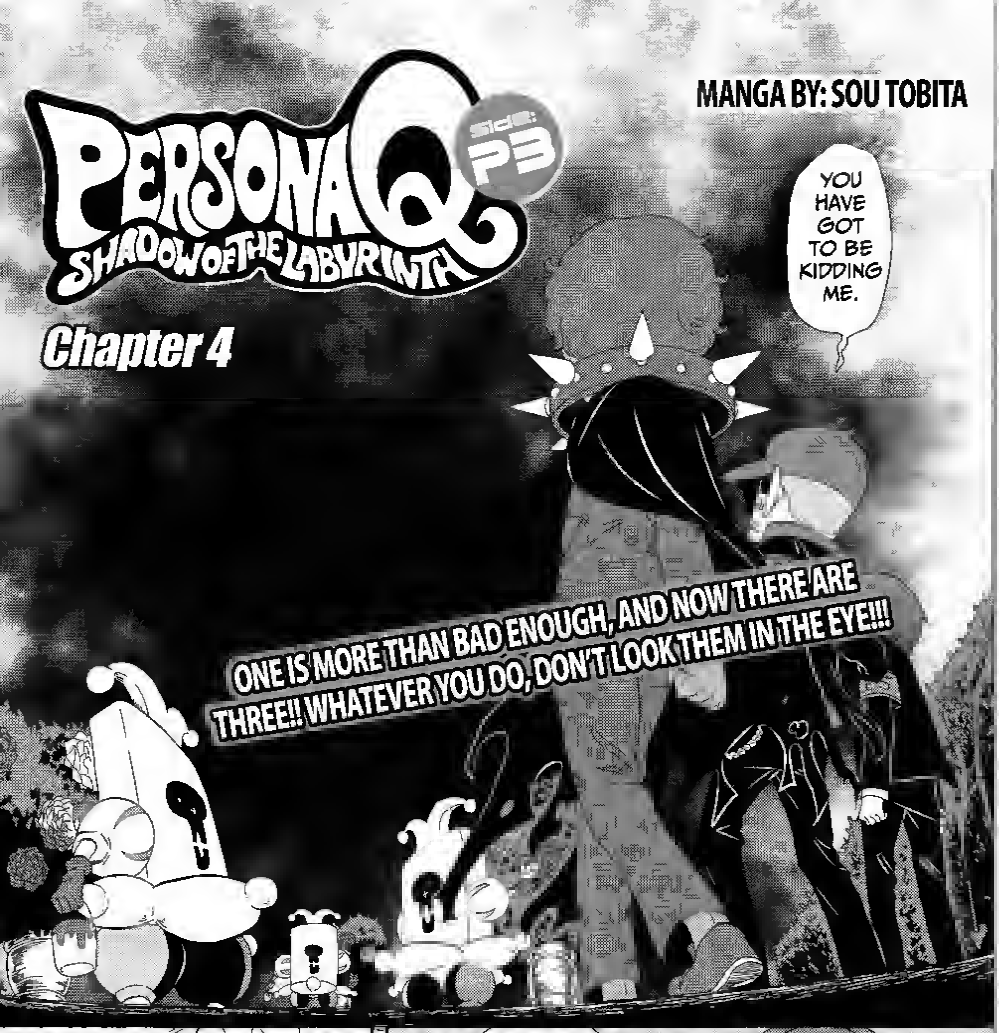
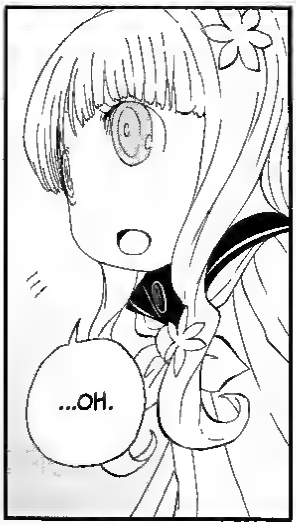
PERSONA Q SHADOW OF THE LABYRINTH side: P3

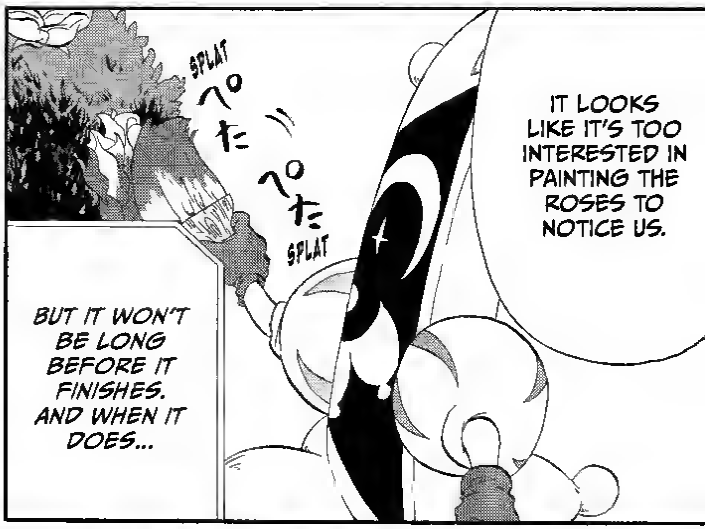
MANGA BY: SOU TOBITA

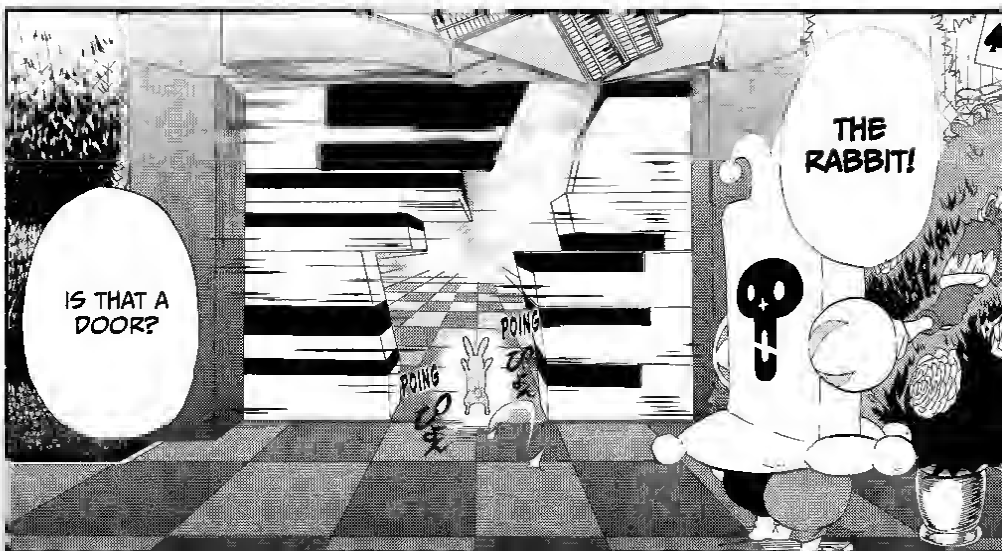
Chapter 4



CREATED BY: ATLUS




SPLAT
SPLAT
BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE IT FINISHES. AND WHEN IT DOES...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TOO INTERESTED IN PAINTING THE ROSES TO NOTICE US.



★ This story is fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, organizations or events is strictly coincidence.

SO NOW WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET TO THAT DOOR WITHOUT THE F.O.E.S NOTICING.
PAT
PAT
HM?
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT...?
A WATERING CAN?
A POND...
OOOHH... I GET IT...

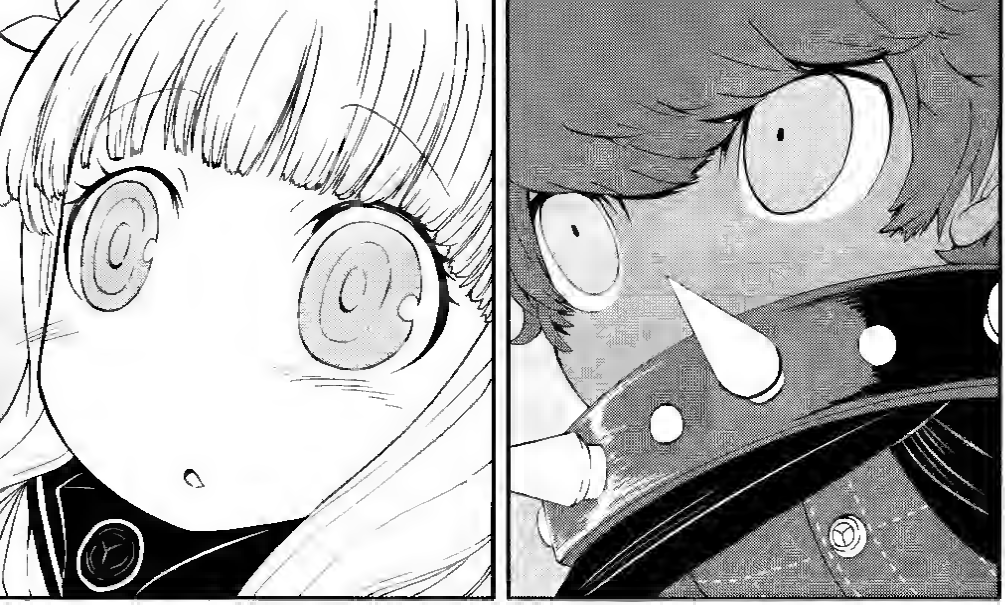
SO WE WASH THE PAINT OFF THE ROSES TO DISTRACT THE F.O.E.S.
YEAH, BUT...
HOW'S IT GOING, JUNPEI?
NO PROBLEM! ALMOST DONE...
IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO LET JUNPEI HANDLE THIS?
FISH

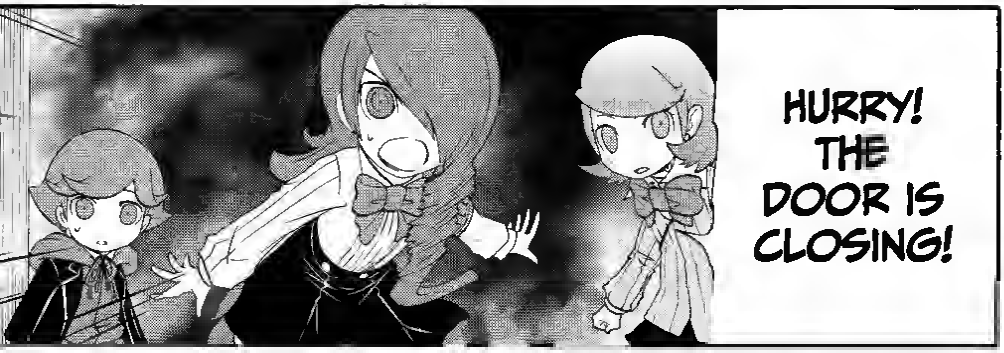
TROMP
WHOA. HERE IT COMES. ...I'M COMING DOWN!
TROMP
GOOD. NOW'S OUR CHANCE. LET'S GO!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
DRIP
GOT PAST THE FIRST ONE!
FWUMP
THANKS!
WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
IF YOU LET ONE OF THEM SEE YOU, THEY MIGHT ALL COME AFTER YOU.
SHOULD I DISTRACT IT?
APPARENTLY, WE CAN ONLY GO SO FAR BEFORE RUNNING INTO ANOTHER ONE.

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LURE THAT ONE AWAY...
...
THE OTHER F.O.E.S ARE ALMOST DONE PAINTING THEIR ROSES!
WE BETTER HURRY...
RUSTLE
OOF...
.....!
THE F.O.E. IS GETTING CLOSER!
TROMP
TROMP

NOW! LET'S GO!
THERE, ALL DONE! I'M COMING DOWN!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
?!
AH...
ACHOO!!
WAAAAAHH!!!
UH.
WAIT ...!
!
STUPID ...!

REI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
YEAH
WHAT HAPPENED TO REI ?!
WILL SHE BE OKAY ?
EEK!
REI!
WHAM
...!
TROMP
TROMP
AH...!
AH...
...ZEN ?!
WHOOSH




HURRY! THE DOOR IS CLOSING!

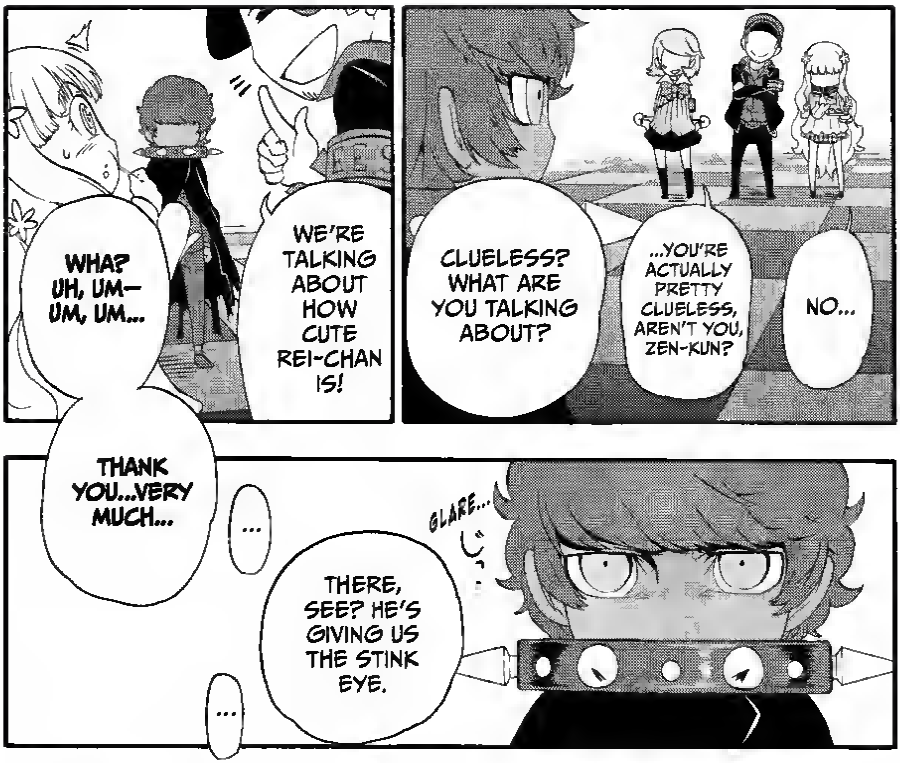
RUN, RUN, RUN!!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL OKAY.
I SEE WE ALL MADE IT THROUGH.

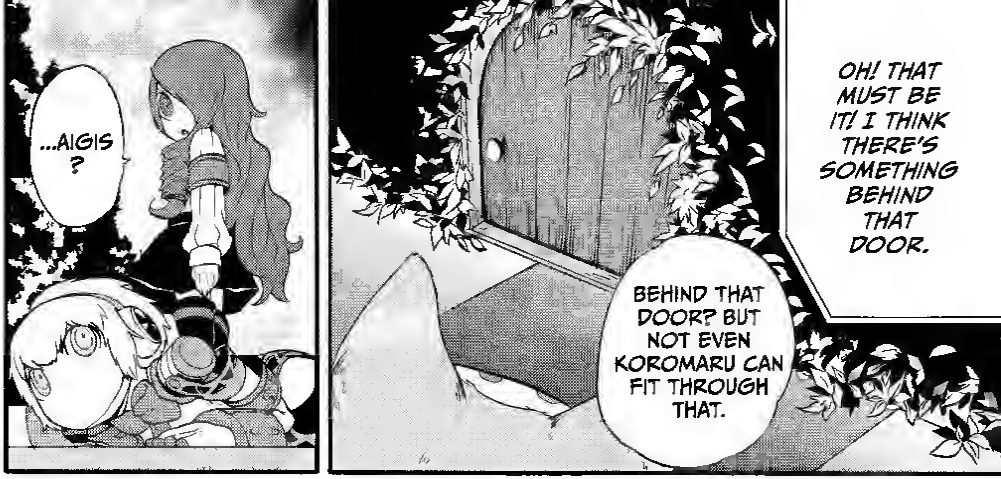
SNIFFLE ぐずん
YEAH, YEAH.
LUCKY. I WISH SOMEONE WOULD PROTECT ME.
I KNOW... BUT THANK YOU!
IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT YOU.
ZEN...!
THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING ME!

IT FEELS KIND OF DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER FLOORS...
SO THIS IS THE...THIRD FLOOR, RIGHT?
...
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT "SHAKING WITH EXCITEMENT" IS ABOUT ...?
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "SHAKING WITH EXCITEMENT", WHERE YOU RAISE YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE BY SHAKING, AND IT IMPROVES YOUR DIGESTION SO YOU CAN EAT FATTY FOODS.
BUT YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING ...
I'M NOT SCARED!
...ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT SCARED?
I-I'M FINE!
REI...

I WILL DO MY BEST!
CHOMP..
I WANT TO GO HOME WITH EVERYONE! PLEASE REGARD ME KINDLY, KEN-CHAN!
...
WHAT WOULD I BE STEWING?
YOU'RE NOT STEWING?
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M COOKING SOMETHING?
STEWING? STEWING WHAT?
STEWING? ZEN, ARE YOU STEWING?
WELL, LOOK AT THAT. PRINCE CHARMING IS STEWING WITH JEALOUSY.


WHA? UH, UM— UM, UM...
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HOW CUTE REI-CHAN IS!
CLUELESS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY CLUELESS, AREN'T YOU, ZEN-KUN?
NO...
THANK YOU...VERY MUCH...
...
THERE, SEE? HE'S GIVING US THE STINK EYE.
...
GLARE...

?
...HUH?
I'M DETECTING ANOTHER DOOR THERE...
ANOTHER DOOR?
I DON'T SEE A...
HUH? THIS DOOR IS LOCKED.
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND THE KEY...


...AIGIS ?
BEHIND THAT DOOR? BUT NOT EVEN KOROMARU CAN FIT THROUGH THAT.
OH! THAT MUST BE IT! I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND THAT DOOR.

WASN'T THAT IN THE ALICE STORIES? I'M SURE THERE WAS A DRINK...THAT MADE HER SHRINK...
DRINK ME
IT MUST BE A BEVERAGE... BUT WHAT KIND OF BEVERAGE?
"DRINK ME"...?
I FOUND THIS.

I...I'LL PASS, TOO.
I KNOW THE HUMAN BODY HAS A LOT OF MYSTERIES, BUT THAT'S TOO MUCH. LET'S NOT EVEN GO THERE.
WHAT?! A DRINK THAT COMES FROM ICE CREAM, AND WHEN YOU DRINK IT, IT MAKES STRING CHEESE?! I WANT SOME!

GLUG
GLUG
WAIT JUST A...
UH.
MAY I ANALYZE THE DRINK'S CONTENTS?
YEAH, YOU WOULDN'T WANNA GET ANY SMALLER THAN YOU ALREADY ARE.
THERE DO NOT SEEM TO BE ANY INGREDIENTS THAT WOULD HARM THE HUMAN BODY.
I SEE NO CHANGE IN MY HEIGHT, WEIGHT, OR THREE SIZES.
...HOW IS IT?
IT IS TOO LATE FOR ME TO WAIT NOW.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HEY, AKIHIKO ARAGAKI...
SO IT'S NOT POISON, BUT IT WON'T MAKE US SMALLER.
IT SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING IMPORTANT, BUT IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING?

SIGH...
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, SHINJI. DO YOU ENJOY CONSTANTLY RAINING ON EVERYONE'S PARADE?
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HANGING OUT WITH A MORON WHO'S SO CLUELESS ABOUT WHEN TO LEAVE PEOPLE ALONE THAT HE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO HAVE PRO-WRESTLING MATCHES WITH THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SNUCK IN THAT ABANDONED CAT YOU FOUND AND GOT US BOTH IN TROUBLE!
WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA BRING THAT UP, THEN YOU...
SIGH... NOT AGAIN.
IF WE COULD SHRINK THEN, THINGS MIGHT FINALLY BE QUIET AROUND HERE.

WHO WOULD DRINK SOMETHING THAT SUSPICIOUS?
...OKAY, I'LL DRINK IT.
SINCE SHINJI'S TOO SCARED.
TCH. JUST KEEP TALKING.

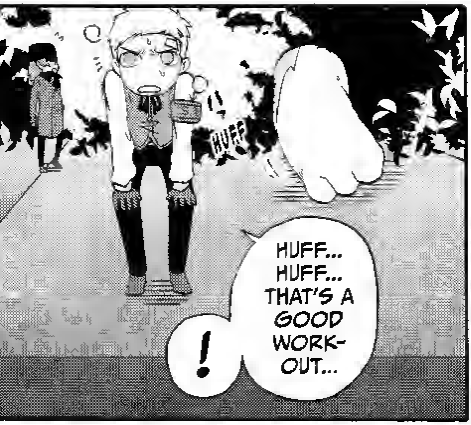
HMPH. CAN'T DO IT YOUR-SELF?
THEN I THINK I DESERVE AN APOLOGY!
?

GLUG
YOU STUPID... HEY, STOP!

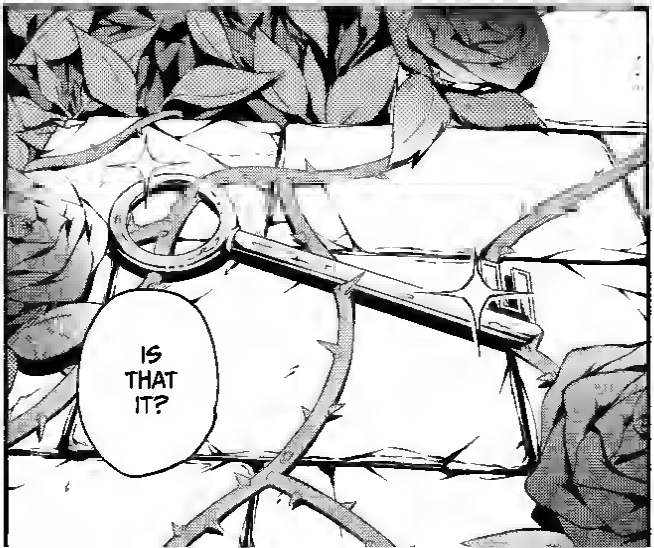
...HUH?
...
KA-
BOOM
AN APOLOGY FOR NEVER COOKING FOR ME!!
EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE A GOOD COOK!
BUT I'M ALWAYS HAVING TO GO TO THE BEEF BOWL PLACE TO EAT! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
SNATCH
YOU LIKE BEEF BOWLS!
IF YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOU FOOD SO YOU CAN DUMP YOUR PROTEIN IN IT, I'D RATHER DRINK THIS!!
GULP
UGH... YOU IDIOTS.
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE ALWAYS FIGHTING ABOUT?
...ER... WH-WH-WHAT?
WHAT ...?!

LITTLE
RAAAH!
WAAAH!
WHOO-OAAA?!
OOOHH.
?
...HOW DOES IT WORK?
OOH
THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE DOLLS!
HEFF
HEFF
?!!

WE SEEM TO HAVE AWAKENED KOROMARU-SAN'S WILD INSTINCTS.
GRRR!
WOOF!
WAG
STOP IT, KORO-MARU!
WAG
HEY! DON'T LICK ME!
OWAHH!
DASH
SPLAT
GYAAA!


HUFF
HUFF... HUFF... THAT'S A GOOD WORK-OUT...
!

HURRY, IN THERE!
TROMP
TROMP


IS THAT IT?

ビク WINCE
ARF!
ACK! S-STAY AWAY!
DEAD
WELL DONE, YOU TWO.
BRILLIANT!
WHIMPER...
GLOOM...
HEH
HA... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE NOT MAD.
HE LET HIS WILD SIDE GET THE BETTER OF HIM, AND HE IS SORRY... HE SAYS.
BOW WOW!
O-OKAY, I GET IT! JUST DON'T LICK ME ANYMORE!
HEH HEH... BUT DON'T HESITATE TO LICK THEM IF THEY START FIGHTING AGAIN, KOROMARU.
WOOF!

...OH! THE RABBIT.
WHAT?! IT DISAP-PEARED...
THE RABBIT'S SIGNAL HAS COMPLETELY VANISHED!
MAYBE IT WAS ONLY HERE AS OUR GUIDE...
...THAT RABBIT ...
DID YOU REMEMBER SOME-THING?
NO... I CAN'T REMEMBER ...
SO IS THIS THE FINISH LINE?
BE CAREFUL! THE BIGGEST SIGNAL IN THE LABYRINTH IS COMING FROM BEHIND THAT DOOR!
YOU STAY BEHIND ME, REI.
...OKAY...
RATTLE

OOHH
?!
...?
NUZZLE
スリスリ
NUZZLE
GLARE
ギロ
...DAN-
GER!
I SENSE
DANGER
!!
NO!
I WON'T
LET YOU
HAVE
IT!!

IT SPEAKS ...?
YOU WILL STAY HERE FOREVER!!
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO DO THAT.
NO, WE CAN'T.

WE ARE GOING TO LEAVE HERE.
THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE DECIDED.
!
HEH... HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HOO HEH HEH HEH
HEE HEE HEE HA HA HA HA AAAH HA HA HA!
OH, YOU ARE FUNNY. HOW DROLL...

YOU SAY YOU WILL LET THEM OUT OF HERE? ISN'T THAT KIND OF YOU, HMM?
JUDGING FROM WHAT SHE IS SAYING, I SUSPECT THIS SHADOW IS THE ONE KEEPING US IN THIS WORLD.
SHE SAID... "I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT."
IS SHE TALKING ABOUT THAT THING BEHIND HER?
WHO KNOWS?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'RE GOING TO GET ANY STRAIGHT ANSWERS OUT OF HER.
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT!!!
COME TO ME! ROYAL ☆ STRAIGHT ☆ FLUSH!

THEY LOOK LIKE F.O.E.S, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THEM!
YUKA-RICCHI, CAN I GO NOW?
CAN I? CAN I GO NOW?
UGH, JUST FIGHT!
ALLLLLL RIGHT! NOW IT'S MY TURN!
KA CHAK
キャッ

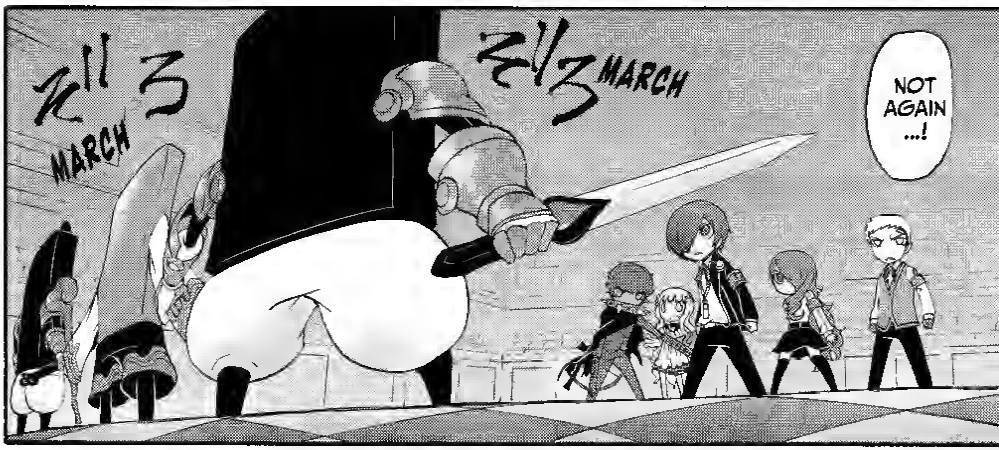
HERMES!
OOHH
OOHH

HUH?
KABOOM
ドライボーン!!
NGY-AAAA-AHH!!
JUN-PEI ?!
...?!

ZHRRR...
THERE'S MORE WHAT THAT CAME FROM!
GRRRR!!
LET'S GO, KORO-MARU!
WE CAN FIGHT, TOO!
CERBEROS
NEMESIS
POW

CHOMP
CHOMP
SPLAT
THE CARD SOLDIERS ARE DOWN! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
ORPHEUS!
TMP

BASH
FWAM
CLAMP
SHOONK


MARCH
MARCH
NOT AGAIN ...!

TAKEBA! IS IORI OKAY?!
DAMMIT, THERE'S NO END TO THEM!

HE'S FINE!
BUT MY HEALING CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS!
IO!
PLEASE.
POW
..!
I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL EXHAUST ALL OF OUR STAMINA BEFORE WE REACH THE "QUEEN".
YO, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

...?!
WHAT ON EARTH ...?!
ZSH
ZSH
...?

SFF
A MYSTERIOUS PARTY ARRIVES OUT OF NOWHERE.

P3 AND P4—TWO STORIES CONVERGE!!

.....!
YOU'RE ...!
To Be Continued